

The Last Man on Earth

Keystone Theatre—MTC Mainstage

If you loved *The Artist*, you'll give this production a silent two thumbs up. And no, the title is not a marriage proposal rejection.

Gormless Joe (it's a British expression—the Canadian equivalent would be loser) wanders lonely as a cloud. How can he connect? He'd like to be friends with the girl who's selling pies, but when she asks for his help...let's just say that the devil likes a challenge. Now this is a devil that fancies himself, and is so mean that he'd take his big-eared minion's birthday present and...no...that would be telling.

Mime seems to be a poisoned word, so call this run silent, run deep. All in whiteface, with shades of nuance, and a constant piano score like the waves that roll nightly on deep Galilee.

Ron Robinson

Barker's Battle

Small Heroes Theatre—Warehouse

The World War I flying ace from Dauphin, William Barker, who was Billy Bishop's idea of an excellent fighter pilot, deserves more attention (see former Winnipegger Wayne Ralph's biography Barker VC), but this production needs more target

practice. Yes it's the fringe and a bargain price and not a professional company, but—and it is a big but—there are way too many set changes in blackouts. This defeats any rhythm. In flying I think it's called a "stall". Please edit with a Lewis gun.

There is tension, but it's unplanned, as ghostly tables drift on stage and off by mistake. And order extra pack drill for the actors who do not project beyond the edge of the stage.

Finally, although the sequence and the facts seem correct, there is a simplistic feel to explaining why his untimely death and funeral drew a bigger crowd than an American president's had, and yet he was laid to rest in a mausoleum with someone else's name on the door. Oh, Canada.

Small Heroes Theatre Company, you are dismissed. Smoke 'em if you got 'em. Now fail again next time but fail better.

Ron Robinson

Mary & Martha

Shoestring—MTC Mainstage

Much applause for Veralyn Warkentin's solid writing, and Maureen Taggart's sensitive direction of a fabulous cast in *Mary & Martha*. Cheers for the set designer as well. Thank you for telling an almost forgotten Winnipeg story.

Muriel Hogue

Seismic Shift Productions

Lost and Left Behind—RRC

Winnipeg actor and playwright Brent Hirose has moved westward, finding a new home on the coast and in doing so has reversed the journey of his grandparents, forcibly relocated to Manitoba during World War II.

Faced with the history left behind by his forebears, he now returns to Winnipeg to tell their story, and his. A funny and heartfelt look at leaving home. And living up to your legacy.



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Letters to Jenny

Hello Winnipeg:

I would like to thank you for your amazing support of *Teacher in the House* at Venue 2. I know from my past shows that those who support my work do so because they know that they will see a professional, well-written, often a complex, funny poignant, piece of theatre. However, in this brand new show (first performance in front of an audience ever was noon last Thursday where all reviewers flocked) I am not hilarious. I need to warn you that this show is NOT *P.S. 70*, (a continuation of *P.S. 69*) that wacky show with 24 characters in an elementary school.

This show is DEEPLY personal, and has to do with a REAL TRUE series of events that made me value my life and others. My marketing and description—and even the name of the show—is deceptive. It looks like a yuck-yuck comedy. It is not. If I led you astray, I hope you will not be like the critics who came in expecting *P.S. 69* and slammed the fact that it was not funny, instead of looking at the very developed plot, characters, performance and subject matter.

Now are you ready for some good theatre? Then I hope to see you in *Teacher in the House*.

Sincerely,
Susan Jeremy



photo courtesy of
Illuminati III: The End of the World

Bitter Pill Ensemble
Tucker
Mother Lode
by Dave Colvin

Thu July 19, 12:00 PM
Fri July 20, 3:45 PM
Sat July 21, 9:15 PM
Mon July 23, 10:45 PM
Tue July 24, 1:45 PM
Wed July 25, 7:00 PM
Fri July 27, 5:30 PM
Sat July 28, 10:45 PM

Tickets: \$10
\$7 for Matinees
Warnings: Language

Venue #4
Alloway Hall (Manitoba Museum)
190 Rupert Ave.